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## Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 27, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, we praise You for Your providential care through the years of our blessed history as a people. Thank You that this Senate exemplifies that patriotism has not gone out of style. Our commitment to You is expressed in love and loyalty for our land. The sight of our flag still stirs our dedication, the national anthem fires our blood, and the Constitution keeps us rooted and grounded in truth. May we never forget the sacrifice of those who have fought and died for the American dream; may we never become so self-serving that we side-step the cost of courageous leadership.

Lord, empower the women and men of this Senate as they seek to keep their eyes on You and what ultimately is best for our Nation. Guide and direct the leadership of Senators DOLE and DASCHLE as they seek ways for both parties to work toward creative solutions to the crucial issues before them today.

Bless the President and First Lady of our land, the House of Representatives, the Justices, and all who seek Your guidance in the government of the cities and States across our country. God, bless America. We trust in You. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning, the time for the two leaders has been reserved and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

At 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1158, the supplemental appropriations bill and the pending amendments thereto. Rollcall votes are, therefore, expected throughout the day today. Also, the Senate will stand in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Wyoming is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

### SPENDING AND REVENUES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, let me say that the 30 minutes has been reserved for Members of the freshman class to take some time, and that will be divided among several of us.

We want to talk a little bit this morning about the future—the future for America, the future for Americans, and the future as it pertains to spending and spending limitations in this Government. More specifically, where will we be in the year 2000 if we continue to do as we have done over the past number of years? Where will we be at the beginning of the next millennium unless we make some changes in the direction that we are going?

The question before us, I think, as Americans and American taxpayers and American citizens, is, unless we make some changes, unless we set some priorities for ourselves now and do something about spending, will we have any options at the year 2000? Will we be able to set priorities for ourselves or, in fact, will our priorities be set by the bond market? Will our priorities be set simply by the financial condition of this country? So that is what we want to talk about.

There is nothing that can be more important to us than how we enter the new millennium with opportunities for people to be successful, with opportunities for people to earn a living for their families, and to have the American dream as we dreamed it in the past. And that is what we are talking about.

We are talking about spending and what has happened to spending over the last number of years and, frankly, the momentum to continue spending as it has been. And if that does continue, then by the year 2000, we will not have options. All of our money will be spent for Social Security, for interest on the debt, for defense.

One indication of where we have been is that the interest on the debt as part of our budget has soared from \$14 billion a year 25 years ago—in 1970, \$14 billion—to now \$234 billion; on interest alone, \$234 billion, which is more than the Government spent in 1970.

So this, it seems to me, is what we need to be prepared for. We need to take a look at where we are and where we are going. And we have a great opportunity to do that.

Unfortunately, the administration is resisting change and is seeking to extend the programs that we have had over the last 25 years, the last 30 years, seeking to extend and fund programs like the welfare program, which has been a failure. The poverty program

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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